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“GRESHAM’S LAW” AS APPLIED TO IMMIGRATION TO HAWAII.

BY VICTOR S. CLARK.

With a view to ascertaining whether the migration of laborers to and from Hawaii reveals a displacement of whites by Asiatics similar to that described by Gresham’s Law in case of currency, the following table and diagram have been prepared. The comparison is between males of working age, of Asiatic and of Spanish-Portuguese birth or parentage respectively. The latter embrace the only white laborers competing with Asiatics. Total populations are not compared because the importation of picture brides from Japan and the sending of Japanese children to Japan to rear and educate introduces abnormal variations. It is not possible to deduct from departures to California arrivals from that state, because figures are not available for all years in question, but existing figures indicate that this does not affect the result. Asiatic aliens cannot migrate from Hawaii to California; but this influences only the absolute increase or decrease of Asiatics, and the diagram shows no change after 1908, when this regulation applied to the Japanese, who at that time and for the preceding years formed the main part of Asiatic immigration. Since 1910 Filipinos have been the largest element of Asiatic origin moving to Hawaii, and these are free to migrate to California.

The table gives not only absolute figures, but also the ratios these figures bear to the total adult male population of the two groups in question, respectively, according to the census of 1910. As the Asiatics of this class outnumber the Spaniards and Portuguese ten to one, the ratios only are shown in the diagram. The only year when the decrease of Spaniards and Portuguese by emigration to California did not conform with the net increase or decrease of Asiatics—in general tendency—was 1909, the year of the Japanese plantation strike. That strike apparently contributed to the net decrease of Asiatics during that year, and after the strike the white strike-breakers, receiving their discharge, apparently went to the Coast in

unusual numbers, causing the exceptional phenomenon of an increase in the ratio of white emigration accompanying a net decrease in the Asiatic population.

The presumption is that in case of Hawaii an actual displacement of population along race lines does occur, in accordance with a law that might be formulated in terms similar to Gresham's Law in case of currency.

POPULATION MOVEMENT OF EUROPEAN AND OF ASIATIC MEN COMPETING IN THE LABOR MARKET OF HAWAII FROM 1905 TO 1912, INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Departures of Spanish and Portuguese Men for California.		Net Increase or Decrease of Asiatic Men by Immigration.	
	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
1905.....	-244	3.9	-3803	6.0
1906.....	-326	5.2	+2934	4.7
1907.....	-490	7.8	+4090	6.5
1908.....	-214	3.4	- 80	.1
1909 (Strike).....	-351	5.6	-1166	1.8
1910.....	-429	6.8	+1288	2.0
1911.....	-279	4.4	- 342	.5
1912.....	-601	9.5	+4720	7.5

SOLID LINE = PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE OF ASIAN ADULT MALE POPULATION
BY IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION

